

**Barnard Castle Rural District Council**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

WITH THE

**REPORT OF THE**

**SANITARY INSPECTORS**

**FOR THE YEAR 1937.**



**BARNARD CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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# Barnard Castle Rural District Council.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my report for the year 1937,—a year of change, investigation and planning.

In April, the district was extended to include the parishes of Bolam, Evenwood and Barony, Hamsterley, Lynesack and Softley, South Bedburn and West Auckland, thus increasing the area by 28,000 acres and adding about 9,000 inhabitants to the population.

Owing to the continued ill-health of your late Medical Officer, Dr. Hawthorne, and the urgent necessity of dealing with bad housing conditions in the area, it was found essential to appoint a temporary Medical Officer and since October I have had the honour of occupying that post and hold myself responsible for the present annual report which follows the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health Circular 1650.

The Housing Acts of 1925 to 1936 set up a new standard in housing and it was soon apparent that many houses in the area fell far below that standard; frequent inspections were made, representations were forwarded to the Council and Clearance Areas Scheduled, with the result that, by the end of 1937 real progress had been made and I trust that the Council will continue to give a prominent place in their deliberations to the satisfactory housing of the working classes.

Progress at first is unavoidably slow, especially in the selecting of new sites and in the construction of new houses, but the movement must gather momentum, not only to compensate for the neglect of the past, but to rapidly eradicate the miserable conditions of the present.

Sewage disposal, overcrowding and the conversion of ash-pit closets are amongst the other Public Health questions under consideration. 287 houses, out of a total of 5446, are overcrowded, or 1 in 19, and only 1 closet in every 4 is of the water carriage system.

These are some of the changes, investigations and planning that have taken place and 1938 will undoubtedly see some of these schemes materialise, to the general raising of the standard of health in our community.

Although my term of office has been brief, I have already great cause to thank the Councillors and Officials for the assistance that has been rendered to me in the fulfilment of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant.

ROBERT DAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health, Robert Dawson, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., M.D.

Sanitary Inspectors, Western Area:— John George Middleton.

Eastern Area:— Henry Alfred Smith.

Both are Members of the Sanitary Inspectors Association and Associates of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

## SECTION "A."

### General Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	...	...	110,069
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1937	...	...	17,460
Registrar General's modified estimate, for statistical purposes, as the area was subject to change of boundary during the year	...	...	15,480
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	5,446
Rateable value	...	...	£57,611
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£216

The chief industries are agriculture, coal mining and stone quarrying.

The serious incidence of unemployment in the area is shown by the following average quarterly returns (percentages) which I have obtained from the Divisional Controller, Ministry of Labour, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

LOCAL OFFICE	MARCH 1937	JUNE 1937	SEPT. 1937	DEC. 1937
Cockfield	25·8	17·1	13·1	19·0
Middleton-in-Teesdale	39·2	9·6	10·3	45·8
Gainford	42·8	13·7	9·3	20·3

Approximate figures for Toft Hill and Etherley are:—

Percentage of Unemployment at present time (May 1938)	29
Percentage of Unemployment early 1937	33
Present percentage of Unemployment for Hamsterley	16

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.

Live Births :	Legitimate	Illegitimate	215	TOTAL. 204 11	Male. 102 5	Female. 102 6
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Live Birth Rate, 13·9 per 1,000 of the Population.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales, 14·9, and for 148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) 15·3

<b>Still Births :</b>	Legitimate	}	8	{	TOTAL	Male.	Female
	Illegitimate				6 2	5 2	1 —

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 35·9  
(or 0·52 per 1,000 of the population).

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales, 0·60 per 1,000 of population  
and for 148 Smaller Towns 0·64.

<b>Deaths.</b>	TOTAL	Male	Female
	202	113	89
Death Rate per 1,000 of Population		13·05	
For England and Wales		12·4	
For 148 Smaller Towns		11·9	

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	DEATHS.	RATE per 1000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	—
Other Puerperal causes	1	4·5
Total	1	4·5
Rate for England and Wales (totals)		3·11

<b>Deaths of Infants under 1 year.</b>	Male	Female
Total	5	7
Legitimate	5	7
Illegitimate	0	0

### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	53·8
England and Wales	...	...	58
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	55
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	53·8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	26
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	3



## Causes of Deaths.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Influenza	4	0	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	3	4
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilis	0	0	0
General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	0	0	0
Cancer	18	8	26
Diabetes	1	2	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	10	6	16
Heart Diseases	31	29	60
Aneurysm	0	0	0
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	2	8
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Pneumonia all forms	4	4	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	3	4
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 yr.)	1	2	3
Appendicitis	1	0	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0	1
Other Diseases of Liver	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	4	6
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	8	1	9
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0
Other Puerperal diseases	0	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth	2	3	5
Senility	4	3	7
Suicide	1	0	1
Other violence	0	2	2
Other Defined Diseases	8	13	21
Causes ill-defined or not known	1	0	1
Totals	113	89	202

## SECTION "B."

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The details of the Staff are incorporated at the beginning of the report.

### Laboratory Facilities.

As in former years laboratory work to assist practitioners in the diagnosis of cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis and venereal diseases, etc. was carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

### Ambulance Facilities.

There is one ambulance at Randolph Colliery, Evenwood, and recently the Darlington Memorial Hospital was presented with an ambulance for the use of contributors under the Memorial Hospital Contributory Scheme. Ambulances are available for Infectious fever cases: otherwise, the ambulance facilities for the district are totally inadequate; and this deficiency in equipment will become more apparent as schemes for Air Raid Precautions mature.



## Nursing in the Home.

The area is well served by six District Nursing Associations and some idea of the magnitude of the work carried out by these Associations is given below. These are voluntary organisations working in conjunction with and assisted by the County Council.

NURSING ASSOCIATION	MIDWIFERY		MATERNITY		CASES NURSED				TOTAL	VISITS PAID	
					MEDICAL		SURGICAL				
Butterknowle	28	...	3	...	125	...	74	...	230	...	3645
Cockfield	35	...	1	...	19	...	26	...	81	...	1478
Evenwood & Ramshaw	18	...	2	...	28	...	16	...	64	...	2653
Gainford	20	...	7	...	51	...	66	...	144	...	2440
Middleton-in-Teesdale	5	...	11	...	42	...	8	...	72	...	2298
Staindrop	20	...	3	...	79	...	48	...	150	...	3647
Totals	126	...	27	...	342	...	238	...	741	...	16161

The figures are for the year 1936.

Several parishes are included in Nursing Associations outside the Council's area:— Egglestone by the Egglestone, Romaldkirk and Mickleton D.N.A. and Stainton, Westwick and Marwood by the Barnard Castle and Startforth D.N.A.

## Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Child Welfare Centres administered by the Durham County Council are held at Butterknowle, Cockfield, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop and Witton Park.

## Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

There is only the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Marwood which is controlled by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board. The hospital has 12 beds for scarlet fever cases and 14 for cases of Diphtheria and there is one resident nurse in charge. Cases of infectious diseases from the Eastern Area are sent to Tindal Crescent Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

## SECTION "C."

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) Water.—The Upper Teesdale Water supply passing through Forest, Bowlees and Newbiggin was completed during the year.

On the occurrence of the case of typhoid fever at Butterknowle, the water supply to the house was examined both at the source of supply and in the house but no contamination was found.

No systematic bacteriological investigations are carried out of water supplies controlled by the Council but water supplies under the control of the Tees Valley Water Board and the Durham County Water Board are regularly examined.

- (ii) Drainage and Sewerage.—Improvements were carried out at the Cockfield sewerage disposal works and large schemes were planned for sewerage works for Evenwood and Barony, Lynesack and Softley, and Woodland.

2. Rivers and Streams.—No pollution was detected during the year.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.—Schemes are in preparation for the conversion of ash-closets of the worst type to the water carriage system and when it is known that the proportion of ash-closets and ash-pit privies to water closets is as high as 4 to 1 then we must realise that we have scarcely yet emerged from a state of primitive sanitation and I urge the Council to make these schemes operative as soon as possible.
- (ii) Public Cleansing.—Scavenging and refuse disposal are carried out by contracts let annually. This may be the only method at present but the system should be reviewed from time to time so as to get more unified control and more direct supervision by the Council.
- (iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—A tabular statement is found under the sanitary inspectors' report, which shows a total of 3,471 inspections carried out. From the fact that housing inspections accounted for 1,203 of these visits, we can realise the importance that is being placed upon one of the big problems of the area.
- (iv) Shops.—No formal notices were required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934 relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.
- (v) Smoke Abatement.—Only one informal notice was found necessary.
- (vi) Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no such baths or pools in the area.
- (vii) Eradication of bed bugs.—Action in this respect has been undertaken by the sanitary inspectors and is given in their report.
4. The sanitary conditions and water supplies of schools are generally satisfactory but those schools without water supplies should receive the early consideration of the Council.

## SECTION "D."

### Housing.

The statistical report given by the sanitary inspectors indicates the progress that is being made in the improvement of property for the agricultural population or persons of similar economic means under the Housing (Rural) Workers Act.

I have paid special attention to this side of Public Health work and I realise that, as yet, we are only on the fringe of the problem. There were no new houses built by the Local Authority and only 18 by private enterprise. The situation is receiving the closest investigation, schemes are being developed and definite progress is being made.

The total number of overcrowded houses is 287, situated as follows:—Evenwood and Barony 91, Cockfield 52, Lynesack and Softley 29, Middleton-in-Teesdale 26, West Auckland 25, Staindrop 17, Woodland 11, Ingleton 6, Egglestone 5, Forest and Frith 5, Newbiggin 3, Winston 3, Hilton, Marwood, Streatlam and Stainton, Wackerfield and Hamsterley 2 each, Gainford, Headlam, Langton and Whorlton 1 each.

## SECTION "E."

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Records are fully reported in the Sanitary Inspectors' Report.

- (a) Milk Supply.—Of the milk producers only five per cent produce accredited or T.T. milk; this is a very low percentage but there is evidence that the number is steadily increasing.
- (b) Meat and other Foods.—Frequent inspections were carried out and details are given later in the report.
- (c) Adulteration, etc.—The only action taken by your officials under Regulations 1923—29 was in respect of milk sampling.
- (d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—Milk supplies only.
- (e) Nutrition.—There were no special investigations carried out.
- (f) Shell-fish.—This section does not apply to the district.

## SECTION "F."

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Only 6 cases of Diphtheria were notified, the rate being 0·39 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 1·49 for England and Wales. The cases were distributed as follows :—

Cockfield	2
Evenwood	1
Woodland	1
Staindrop	1
Ingleton	1

Since the immunisation scheme was introduced in 1936, 472 children in the area were inoculated by the "one shot" method using Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.). This number represents probably less than 20 per cent of the children ages 1-11 years and is a disappointing result and also omits a very important age group in the incidence of diphtheria, i.e. ages 12-16.

62 cases of scarlet fever were notified, the rate being 4·00 per 1,000 of the population compared with 2·33 for England and Wales. The cases were distributed as follows :—

Cockfield	25
Evenwood	11
Woodland	5
Staindrop	5
Middleton-in-Teesdale	5
Gainford	4
Witton Park	2
Stainton	2
Butterknowle	1
Egglesstone	1
Marwood	1

It will be noted that more than half of the cases of scarlet fever occurred in the parishes of Cockfield, and Evenwood and Barony and this corresponds with the fact that half of the total number of overcrowded houses in the district are situated in these two areas.

One case of typhoid fever and one of paratyphoid fever B were notified, both from Butterknowle. Immediate and full investigations were made to trace the sources of infection, including examination of water supply, and all precautions were taken to prevent the spread of infection. No further outbreak occurred.

No action was taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	62	62	0
Diphtheria	6	6	0
Enteric Fever	2	2	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	1
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia	7	0	2

### Analysis of the Total Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in age groups.

Disease	Und. 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	0	0	3	3	2	19	24	3	6	2	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

### Tuberculosis.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 as no person engaged in the milk trade was notified as suffering from Tuberculosis.

## Tuberculosis.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 ...	...	...	3	I	...	...	...	...
15 ...	...	4	I	...	...	...	...	...
25 ...	...	...	...	...	I	3	...	...
35 ...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
45 ...	I	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 ...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	3	6	4	2	I	3	0	0

One of the tuberculosis deaths had not been previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis.



**BARNARD CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**SANITARY INSPECTORS**

**FOR THE YEAR 1937.**



To the Chairman and Members of the  
Barnard Castle Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

We herewith submit our annual report dealing with the sanitary circumstances of your Area for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

This is our first annual report to you, and we wish to take this opportunity of expressing our sincere gratitude for the invaluable help you have rendered us during our first year of office, and for the courtesy shown, and we hope that the co-operation and pleasantness will continue during our term of office with you and this Council.

This also is the first report to the newly extended Rural District Council of Barnard Castle, with the result that much information had to be obtained for the three months prior to its extension in April 1937, from the Officials of the late Auckland Rural District Council, to whom we convey our thanks, and also to your former Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. Brown, for the valuable assistance given us.

During the year many Departmental Orders were issued, but of greatest importance was the coming into operation of the Public Health Act, 1936. This Act may be described as a consolidating and an amending Act, and consolidates principally the Public Health Acts, 1875-1932.

The greater part of activity during the year was extended to the new portion of your Area, and much important work left incomplete by the late Auckland Council had to be taken over and dealt with immediately by you. This included proposals to be submitted to the Minister of Health for re-housing overcrowded families, and for the provision of houses to replace those scheduled for Clearance and Demolition.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year and no special reports of any serious nature were required to be made to you. On the other hand however, routine work proceeded amicably with all concerned.

## **WATER.**

No serious complaints were received during the year with regard to the quality of water supplies.

Some of the Council's undertakings ran rather low due to the excessive drought, but gave no cause for alarm.

The Tees Valley Water Board and the Durham County Water Board, who supply greater portions of the Southern and Northern parts of your District respectively, gave every satisfaction as regards quality and quantity. These supplies are periodically and systematically tested both bacteriologically and chemically.

No bacteriological control is kept over supplies maintained by this Council, but every possible care and attention coupled with expert knowledge is devoted to ensure a sufficient and wholesome supply reaching the consumer.

Many pumps and privately owned supplies are still in existence, but the Council are alert to the necessity of an adequate and wholesome piped supply being, as far as practicable, in the homes of every householder.

This year saw the completion of a large water scheme, undertaken by your Council, and known as the Upper Teesdale Water Supply. The scheme supplies the Township of Newbiggin-in-Teesdale and is then continued westward to Forest-in-Teesdale. 1060 yards of 4 inch, and 8837 yards of 3 inch spun iron pipes were laid for this scheme, and the supply is from two springs situated upon rough moorland pasturage. The total cost of the scheme amounted to £4025.

Other Parishes supplied with water from schemes controlled and maintained by your Council include, Cockfield, Woodland, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Streatlam and Stainton, and Wackerfield. In each case these supplies are by gravitation, from springs.

The Cockfield water supply is augmented during droughty weather by the co-operation of Hydraulic Rams and an oil engine which pumps the surplus water from the springs to the reservoir.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

An important improvement was made to the Cockfield sewage disposal works by the provision of a revolving sprinkler and filter bed, previous to this the effluent from the settling tanks was discharged direct to irrigation channels on the fell. The cost of this scheme was £780.

Arrangements commenced by the late Auckland Council for the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal works for the Parishes of Evenwood and Barony, and Lynesack and Softley have been satisfactorily proceeded with by your Council, in addition your Council resolved to include the Township of Woodland into the Lynesack and Softley scheme.

These schemes are greatly needed, as this portion of your area is very badly drained, consisting of many cesspools and tanks which are both primitive and unsuitable, and give rise to general complaints.

With the exception of portions of the Parishes of Evenwood and Barony, and West Auckland, all sewage is treated at works within your Area. These portions of the parishes referred to are treated at disposal works situated in the Urban District of Bishop Auckland.

Sewage Caretakers are employed by your Council to ensure efficient working of the sewerage sytems controlled by you.

### **Rivers and Streams.**

Closest supervision is devoted to all rivers and streams within your District to ensure as far as practicable that no pollution of any description exists. No complaints were received and no pollution noticed during the year.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

During the year no scheme for the conversion of Privies to Water Closets was undertaken by your Council, although by resolution, a scheme is in preparation whereby it is intended to convert closets of the worst type to the water carriage system in Parishes where sufficient water supplies and sewers are available.

The total number of water closets in your Area to date is 975, compared with 2990 ash closets and 1057 ash pit privies. 77 ash closets were converted to water carriage during the year.

### **Public Cleansing.**

No alteration in the general arrangement of District scavenging was made during the year. The scavenging is let annually by Contract and with few exceptions was performed satisfactorily.

44 Districts were let to 29 Scavengers and several 'split' districts (due to the County Review Order) were shared with the Bishop Auckland Urban District Council.

The total cost of scavenging for the year, excluding the amount to be paid to the Bishop Auckland U.D.C. for the 'split' Contracts, amounted to £1700.

## Refuse Disposal.

Your Council provide 8 tips for the deposit of house refuse in various portions of the District, in other cases the Contractors have to provide their own tips for disposal, which, by condition of Contract, must be approved by you.

This method cannot be said to be highly satisfactory as many places are quite unsuitable and the Contractors pay insufficient attention to control.

The difficulty experienced, however, is finding suitable places for disposal of refuse without entailing undue lengths of carting which would greatly add to the cost of cleansing.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within your District.

	VISITS
Slaughter-houses and Meat Inspection	660
Housing matters	1203
Sanitary Accommodation, Drainage and sewage disposal	550
Disinfection and Infectious Diseases	66
Milk and Dairies	132
Shops, etc.	50
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	441
Water Supplies	121
Verminous Premises	14
Factories and Workshops	135
Other matters	99
Total	3,471

### Summary of Notices served.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{ Foul Condition	—	—	—
	{ Structural Defects	20	—	14
	{ Overcrowding	—	—	—
Lodging-houses	...	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	2	—	1
Cowsheds	...	6	—	6
Bakehouses	...	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses	...	4	—	3
Ash-pits and Privies	...	11	—	8
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	2	1	3
Water-closets	...	2	—	1
Defective Yard Paving	...	1	—	1
House	{ Defective Traps	1	—	1
Drainage	{ No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—
	{ Other Faults	14	—	14
Water Supply	...	6	—	5
Pigsties	...	—	—	—
Animals Improperly Kept	...	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	...	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	...	1	—	1
Other Nuisances	...	7	—	7
Verminous Premises	...	3	—	3
Totals		80	1	68

### WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.

	NUMBER.
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	...
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...
Convictions for exposing or selling unwholesome Food	...
Samples of Food & Drugs taken for Analysis	...
„ „ found Adulterated	...

### PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	NUMBER.
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	61
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...
Schools do. do. ...	...
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	—
Convictions for do. do. do. ...	—

### **Shops.**

Shops have been inspected during the year to ensure that the provisions of the Shops Act 1934 were being complied with in relation to Temperature, Ventilation and Sanitary Accommodation.

Such matters requiring attention were brought to the notice of the occupiers in an informal manner, it being found that much can be obtained by persuasion, and no formal notices have been served.

There was no cause to make any special report to you on this subject, as no great difficulty was experienced.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

No serious cases of nuisance caused by smoke came under observation during the year, only one informal notice being found necessary.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are none provided in the area.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

Three houses were found infested with bed bugs and disinfection was carried out after removal of the tenants.

The furniture was not infested, and disinfection of the houses after removal of all skirtings, picture rails, etc., proved satisfactory.

Infested houses are freed by a method of spraying carried out by ourselves, ensuring that no portions of the premises are left undone.

There has been no re-occurrence of infestation.

### **Schools.**

Sanitary Accommodation and Water Supplies remain without alteration.

There are still schools in your area without water carriage systems, and it is hoped that in the near future the sanitary arrangements at these outlying schools will be modernised.



## Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By Local Authority	—	Nil
(2) By Private Enterprise	—	18

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	170
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	355
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (I) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	111
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	220
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	73
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	97

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	70
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—



(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |   |        |   |
|---|--------|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ...    | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | — |

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

- |  |        |      |
|--|--------|------|
| (a)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year   | ...    | 287  |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein   | ... .. | 288  |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein   | ... .. | 1638 |
| (b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year   | —      |      |
| (c)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year   | ...    | 44   |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases   | ... .. | 254  |
| (d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... .. | —    |
| (e)—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report                   | —      |      |

### Housing (Rural) Workers Acts.

Great progress was made during the year with the improvement of property for the Agricultural Population or persons of similar economic conditions, under these Acts.

The position at 31st December, 1937 is given in the tabulated statement below.

Purpose for which assistance required	NUMBER OF DWELLINGS in respect of which applications for grants have been:			Assistance promised by the Council		Assistance given by the Council		Number of dwellings	
	made to the Council	refused by the Council	with-drawn by the applicants	Total amounts grants promised	Number of dwellings concerned	Total amounts of grants paid	Number of dwellings concerned	On which work has been finished	On which work has been commenced but not finished
(i) Conversion of buildings not previously used as dwellings into dwellings	13	4	0	£900	9	£700	7	7	1
(ii) Improvement of existing dwellings	84	2	2	£7191	80	£4615	53	56	13
(iii) Total	97	6	2	£8091	89	£5315	60	63	14

## **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

### **Milk Supply.**

At the end of the year the total number of farms registered in the District was 790. 749 producing ordinary milk or butter. 32 producing Accredited milk and 9 producing Tuberculin Tested milk.

These premises were examined at regular intervals and numerous alterations carried out to cowsheds in accordance with our suggestions.

Although the alterations were not of an expensive nature they have improved very much the standard of buildings throughout the Area, but it is unfortunate that the greatest difficulty in encouraging the production of a designated milk is the reluctance of owners to carry out the necessary alterations to their farms and of the occupiers to be content with their present methods of production. Not only does an ideal byre aid in the production of a clean milk supply, but it raises considerably the value attached to the farm.

It is hoped that our efforts and heart-to-heart talks with Landlord and Tenant will bring forward the necessity for a safe and good quality milk supply being produced.

Attention was paid to persons retailing but not producing milk. Shops and methods of handling and distribution were found satisfactory.

Milk samples have been taken chiefly from those Farmers intending designated milk production. It is necessary for Licensing purposes to have the Cowsheds, sterilizing and cooling rooms built to a standard laid down by the County Council who licence the producer. This necessitates frequent visiting to the farms during alterations giving advice and finally to procure milk samples, results of which in 7 out of 8 cases have proved satisfactory upon 'first time' sampling.

Samples are submitted to the Agricultural Department, Kings College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

### **Meat and Other Foods.**

642 visits were made to slaughter-houses, before, during and after slaughter, and inspections carried out of carcases and all organs before removal from the premises.

The scattered situation of the slaughter houses renders the inspection of all meat, 'exposed for sale,' an acute and most difficult problem. Slaughtering takes place chiefly on Mondays and Thursdays in each week, and while memorandum 62 (Foods), being a 'system' of meat inspection recommended by the Ministry of Health for adoption by Local Authorities, may be regarded as a first essential for securing uniformity both of inspection and decision, has proved very valuable, difficulty has been found due to receiving notice of intention to slaughter on premises miles apart at times fixed for the same hour on particular days.

Close attention to various parts of the district is most essential, (the general trade being that of 'cow-beef.')

The majority of animals are purchased from markets at Barnard Castle, Darlington and Bishop Auckland, and most cattle, sheep and pigs are brought to the slaughter-houses in motor vans.

No cases of slaughtering on private premises have come to knowledge, all slaughtering has been on licensed premises.

Anti-mortem inspections have been carried out as far as possible, and in a number of cases judgement of the live animal has gone far to locate the origin of disease found in the carcase.

Results of post-mortem examinations and the number of carcasses examined are shown by the following table.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	156	122	3	165	117
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	10	15	—	5	—
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6·3	13·1	—	3·0	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	21	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5·1	18·0	—	—	1·7

Of the 563 carcasses examined, 13 were slaughtered by occasional slaughter and 1 by emergency. All meat found to be diseased was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed under supervision, the amounts being :

Beef	...	964 lbs.
Pork	...	16 lbs.
Offals	...	734 lbs.
Total		1714 lbs.

## **Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.**

### **Notices.**

Forms of regular slaughtering were returned by butchers using Licensed and Registered slaughter-houses at the commencement of the year. These state the approximate number of animals to be slaughtered each week, giving as far as possible the class of animal killed, the times and duration of slaughter.

Special books for use on occasions when notice of 'regular slaughter' has not been given, are provided for those persons intending 'occasional slaughter.'

### **Shops, Stores, etc.**

Shops in use for the purpose of selling meat, and coming within the scope of Part V of these Regulations are frequently visited and their conditions have been found clean and satisfactory.

### **Transport and Handling.**

Persons engaged in the handling or transport of meat have on many occasions been warned about their careless methods adopted, and we are glad to report that there is now marked improvement shown in their practice.

### **Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.**

There are 57 licensed slaughter-men practising in the Area, 46 slaughtering at registered and licensed slaughter-houses. Licences to slaughter animals are granted for periods of three years.

Mechanically operated instruments are used for stunning animals, but as yet none are operated by electricity.

### **Slaughter-Houses.**

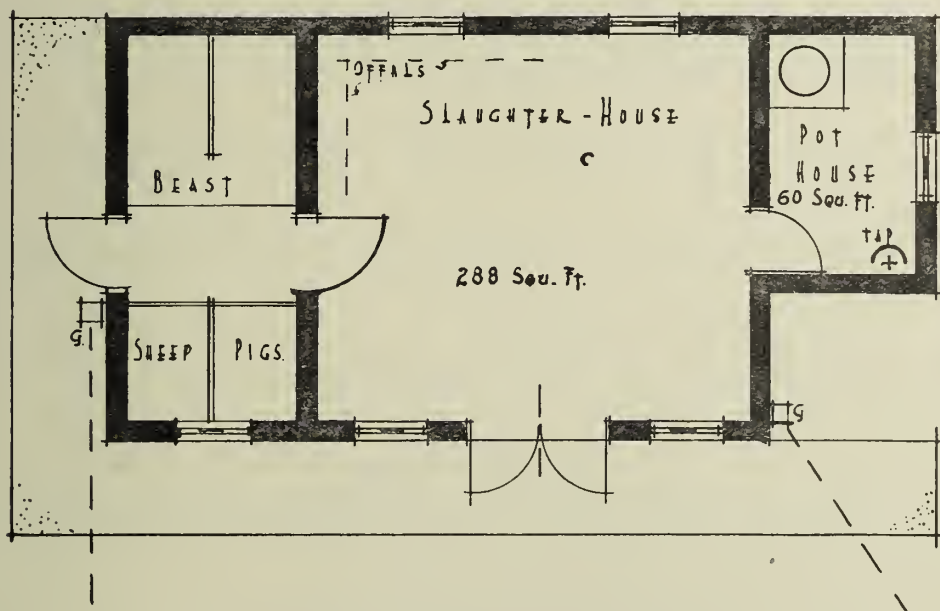
28 slaughter-houses exist in the area, 4 are registered and 24 licensed.

Licences have been allowed to lapse in respect of 5.

The table shows the slaughter-houses registered and licensed in the District, now in use.

DISTRICT.	SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.	
	Licensed.	Registered.
Butterknowle	1	0
Cockfield and Lands	3	0
Copley	0	1
Evenwood	0	1
Etherley and Toft Hill	3	1
Gainford	2	0
Hamsterley	1	0
Ingleton	1	0
Middleton-in-Teesdale	4	0
Staindrop	2	0
Woodland	0	1
West Auckland	2	0
TOTAL	19	4

Although the lay-out of these 23 slaughter-houses differs slightly in the way of lairage and pot-house accommodation, a general type is found, and the plan indicates the structure with average floor areas and accommodation for the animals.



SCALE OF EIGHT FEET TO ONE INCH.

The slaughter-houses are conducted in a satisfactory manner. Verbal notice, in the majority of cases has been found quite ample to rectify any violation of the law.

### **Adulteration.**

Action found necessary was taken by Officers of the County Council operating in the Area.

### **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

With the exception of milk sampling, no other food sampling was found necessary.

### **Nutrition.**

Dissemination of knowledge on the subject : None

### **Shell Fish (Molluscan)**

No shell-fish beds or layings are situated within the district.

### **Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

From particulars given in the Home Office Form 572, it will be seen that notices served during the year were not numerous, this we attribute to the regular inspections and amicable co-operation with the management,

Of the 135 inspections made, 50 were to Factories, 61 to Workshops and 24 to Workplaces.

There are no outworkers as defined by the Factory and Workshops Acts in the Area.

The total number of Workshops on the register at the end of the year was 31.

### **Petroleum Storage.**

There are 53 premises licensed in the Area for the storage of petroleum spirit. These are licensed to store a total of 37,700 gallons, and the total income amounts to £27 paid annually for these licences.

Only eight premises are licensed for the storage of Carbide of Calcium, these licences permit the storage of 8,000 lbs and bring in an annual income of £2.

Inspections in connection with the above were of an informal nature and received our closest attention.



## CONCLUSION.

From the foregoing report it will be seen that a comparatively small number of notices have been served during the year, this in our opinion is very gratifying as we find that much can be done by co-operation and persuasion of those concerned.

Increasing legislation and demands for statistics, together with the enormous amount of recording entailed therewith greatly increases administration work.

In conclusion we would again like to convey our sincere gratitude to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the General Purpose Committee and to the Members and Officials of the Council for the help we at all times received in the discharge of our many duties.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

JOHN G. MIDDLETON, and  
HENRY A. SMITH.

Sanitary Inspectors.







